

“FINDING THE OPEN DOORS”

1 Cor 16:8-9

Critical need in all ministry: Finding the Open Doors. We can, do and should labor in regular outreach/ministry. But key to breakthrough fruitfulness are the ‘great & effective doors.’ Looking for doors that have either never been opened or they have remained long unused.

I. WHAT ARE THE DOORS?

A. Need to clearly understand the purpose of an outreach:

1. *To create a forum where the Gospel can be presented to sinners so they can be saved*
 - a. **Go where the sinners are – where they gather;** Where you can talk to them or present the Gospel
 - b. **Draw them to a particular location:** Something that interests them so they will come – and stay
2. We have to find how to gain entrance into people’s lives so the Gospel can be presented
 - a. This may be unique to a particular community or area of the city
 - b. This may be something that works everywhere

B. Specific Physical locations:

1. Parts of the town/city: Park, facility, avenue – school, neighborhood, etc
 - a. So we need to develop “outreach eyes”
 1. *John 4:35 behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.*

C. People Groups or Communities:

1. Nationalities: Mexicans/Indians, etc. Curry Cook-Off/Fry Bread Feast/Menudo nights
 - a. What people groups or communities in our city can be reached?
 - b. What people groups or communities are we currently not reaching?
2. Age groups
3. Sub-cultures

D. Opportune Moments:

1. Every city has special times/events/moments that are more/less fruitful – can take advantage of them
 - a. Library movie nights; Parades; Special events – every city has its own flavor/variety

II. WHY LOOK FOR DOORS?

A. Access: A ‘door’ gives us access

1. For ministry to be successful it must have access to people – doors give access
 - a. *Many won’t be reached by ‘generic’ outreaches – elderly won’t come to concert, metalheads won’t come to family fun day*
 1. So we look for doors that give us access to the whole community we’re called to reach

B. Refreshing:

1. God’s people get burned out doing same thing year after year – some freshness can help encourage the saints!
 - a. An outreach that has no special ‘power’ can be powerfully effective b/c the saints are excited about it and will get motivated

C. Obedience: Implication of the open door: Walk through it!

1. There are open doors all around us/our city & beyond that we haven’t seen yet – yet called to go through them!
 - a. *Hurl Stewart: God dealt with him to go witness at UGA; Eventually 20 converts locked into the church!*

III. FINDING THE DOORS

A. Pushing Buttons: “He’s a button-pusher” – it’s a compliment –

1. Means a man who will keep trying things until finds the one that works
 - a. Often won’t get powerful ‘word from heaven’ but just have to keep trying things until something happens

B. Getting Revelation: Cry out to God for direction – revelation – understanding

1. *2 Sam 5:23-24 Therefore David inquired of the LORD, and He said, "You shall not go up; circle around behind them, and come upon them in front of the mulberry trees. ²⁴ And it shall be, when you hear the sound of marching in the tops of the mulberry trees, then you shall advance quickly. For then the LORD will go out before you to strike the camp of the Philistines."*

- a. One of my most common prayers: God give us strategy and direction – critical for success in ministry

C. Disciples and Open Doors:

1. Many say want to preach the gospel – yet so rarely have any ideas: *Who will get a strategy when you go out?*
 - a. *We want to send men who have proven they have the creativity, inspiration and motivation to succeed on the field*